

**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND INSURANCE  
DIVISION OF REGULATORY BOARDS**

**CHAPTER 0780-5-1  
PROFESSIONAL BOXING**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

0780-5-1-.01	Definitions	0780-5-1-.19	Knockdown and Knockout
0780-5-1-.02	Applicability	0780-5-1-.20	Technical Knockout
0780-5-1-.03	Advance Notice of Bout	0780-5-1-.21	No Contest
0780-5-1-.04	Licensing	0780-5-1-.22	Drugs and Stimulants
0780-5-1-.05	Temporary Permits	0780-5-1-.23	Treatments or Hospitalization
0780-5-1-.06	Ring	0780-5-1-.24	Repealed
0780-5-1-.07	Bell	0780-5-1-.25	Time Limitations
0780-5-1-.08	Bandages	0780-5-1-.26	Responsibilities of Promoter
0780-5-1-.09	Gloves	0780-5-1-.27	Resolution of Disputes
0780-5-1-.10	Protective Equipment	0780-5-1-.28	Contracts
0780-5-1-.11	Shoes	0780-5-1-.29	Financial Interest in Contestants
0780-5-1-.12	Weights	0780-5-1-.30	Emergency Medical Services
0780-5-1-.13	Weigh-in	0780-5-1-.31	Female Boxing
0780-5-1-.14	Seconds	0780-5-1-.32	Foul Related Injuries
0780-5-1-.15	Referee	0780-5-1-.33	Boxer Identification Card
0780-5-1-.16	Timekeeper	0780-5-1-.34	Federal Standards
0780-5-1-.17	Scoring	0780-5-1-.35	Civil Penalties
0780-5-1-.18	Ring Officials Generally		

**0780-5-1-.01 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) Director shall mean the commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or his/her designee.
  - (b) Bout shall mean any boxing or sparring match or exhibition which is deemed to be “professional” under T.C.A. §68-50-201.
  - (c) Physician shall mean a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Tennessee.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed June 11, 1986; effective July 11, 1986. Amendment filed August 31, 1990; effective November 28, 1990.

**0780-5-1-.02 APPLICABILITY.**

- (1) The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all bouts held or scheduled to be held in the state of Tennessee; provided, however, that the Director may modify or waive any such provision:
- (a) in cases of undue hardship, demonstrable impracticality, or necessity; or
  - (b) for the purpose of gaining the sanction of a bout by a recognized boxing association, council, or organization.

(Rule 0780-5-1-.02, continued)

- (c) When such provisions are contrary to, or inconsistent with, any published and recognized rules of any kickboxing sanctioning body; however, there shall be no waiver of rule 780-5-1-.25 TIME LIMITATIONS.
- (2) The Director shall not modify or waive any rule if the health, safety, or welfare of a contestant in bout would thereby be jeopardized.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed August 31, 1990; effective November 28, 1990.

#### **0780-5-1-.03 ADVANCE NOTICE OF BOUT.**

- (1) At least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled holding of any bout in this state, the promoter shall file with the Director a notice containing the following information:
  - (a) the name and location of the building where the bout is to be held; and
  - (b) the names, addresses, and contracted weights of the prospective contestants, and the names and addresses of the prospective ring officials.
- (2) The promoter shall immediately notify the Director of any change in the information submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) above.
- (3) If the Director determines (on the basis of available information) that a proposed bout would not be reasonably and fairly competitive, he shall so advise the promoter within four (4) days after receipt of the notice submitted in accordance with this rule. Unless the Director is offered evidence or argument which causes him to reverse his determination, such bout shall not be held in this state.
- (4) The Director may, in the interest of maximum fairness and effectiveness, require the promoter to make reasonable changes in the assignment of ring officials for any bout.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207 Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; Effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed August 31, 1990; effective November 28, 1990.

#### **0780-5-1-.04 LICENSING.**

- (1) Except as provided in rule 0780-5-1-.05, no person, firm, or corporation shall promote any bout, or participate in any bout as a boxer, manager, second, referee, judge, or timekeeper without a valid license issued by the Director.
- (2) Applications for licenses shall be submitted on the forms prescribed by the Director. The applicant shall completely and truthfully respond to all questions or requests for information propounded on, or in connection with, the application. The Director may require any applicant to demonstrate his competence by submission of references or successful completion of a written or oral examination.
  - (a) Applicants for a manager's license shall also provide the Director, through references, evidence of boxing experience, or boxing industry experience as a manager. Applicants may receive reciprocity upon a showing proof of licensure in another state, provided that such state has licensing criteria equal to or greater than in this state and affords reciprocity to licenses from this state.

(Rule 0780-5-1-.04, continued)

- (b) Managers, seconds, referees, and judges shall submit to a written or oral examination administered by the Director. This requirement shall not apply to anyone receiving a license prior to the effective date of these rules, provided that such license is current and remains current by renewal.
  - (c) A boxer shall pass an oral examination by the ringside physician or the Director on site and shall demonstrate experience by showing:
    - 1. professional boxing experience;
    - 2. amateur boxing experience of at least ten (10) bouts which may include toughman contest experience acceptable to the Director; or
    - 3. training under an established trainer/manager of a quality and for a length of time satisfactory to the Director.
  - (d) The Director may refuse to grant a license to anyone who has been suspended or revoked in another state.
- (3) Applications for new licenses or the renewal of existing licenses shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as follows:
- |            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Promoter   | \$100.00 |
| Boxer      | \$50.00  |
| Manager    | \$30.00  |
| Second     | \$20.00  |
| Referee    | \$80.00  |
| Judge      | \$30.00  |
| Timekeeper | \$30.00  |
- Such fee shall not be prorated for any portion of a year. Every license shall expire two (2) years following the date of issuance.
- (4) No license issued by the Director under this chapter shall be transferable.
  - (5) In order to obtain a license or the renewal of a license, all boxers must submit to a thorough medical examination by a physician licensed to practice medicine in any state. The examination shall include, but need not be limited to, a complete history of the applicant and any or all of the following laboratory procedures at the discretion of such physician: x-ray, skull x-ray, flat abdominal x-ray, electrocardiogram, complete blood count including bleeding and coagulation time, urine and blood screen for drugs, serological examination for syphilis, neurological and psychiatric examination, and any other test or survey which might be indicated by the past record or present condition of the applicant.
  - (6) No person shall be permitted to compete in a bout unless he:
    - (a) is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
    - (b) furnishes satisfactory identification (including photograph) to the Director.
  - (7) Effective July 1, 1983, no promoter's license shall be issued or renewed unless the applicant presents:

(Rule 0780-5-1-.04, continued)

- (a) A good and sufficient surety bond executed to the state of Tennessee in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00), or
- (b) An irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) issued by a financial institution authorized to conduct business in this state which shall provide that the Director shall be permitted to draw against said Letter on behalf of any boxer entitled to payment therefrom.
  - 1. Such bond or Letter of Credit shall be conditioned that the applicant will perform all contractual obligations to boxers incurred in connection with the promotion of any bout in this state and shall be in full force and effect during the duration the license period.
  - 2. Any boxer seeking compensation by reason of a violation of the condition of any such bond may maintain an action in his own name on the bond without assignment thereof.
  - 3. Any boxer seeking compensation by reasons of any claimed default in the terms and conditions of contractual obligations shall submit same to the Director who shall determine the promoter's liability for the purpose of drawing against a Letter of Credit.
  - 4. In no event shall the aggregate liability of the surety or financial institution in any license period exceed the sum of the bond or Letter of Credit.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§68-50-207(a) and 68-115-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed August 31, 1990; effective November 28, 1990. Amendment filed August 16, 1993; effective October 30, 1993. Amendment filed November 21, 1994; effective February 4, 1995. Amendment filed June 30, 1999; effective September 13, 1999.

#### **0780-5-1-.05 TEMPORARY PERMITS.**

- (1) Pending the Director's consideration of his qualifications and fitness, an individual may be issued a temporary permit as a boxer, manager, or second upon submission of a complete application for license (including medical examination for boxer applicant) accompanied by the proper fee.
- (2) A temporary permit may be summarily terminated by the Director in the event the application for license is denied.
- (3) No temporary permit shall be issued to an individual making their professional boxing debut unless their application has been received by the Director at least seven (7) days prior to the date of their first professional bout.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-115-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983. Amendment filed June 30, 1999; effective September 13, 1999.

#### **0780-5-1-.06 RING.**

- (1) The ring shall not be less than sixteen (16) nor more than twenty-four (24) feet square within the ropes. The floor of the ring shall extend not less than sixteen (16) inches nor more than two (2) feet beyond the ropes on all sides of the ring. Such floor shall be padded with a one (1) inch layer of Ensolute (or the equivalent) placed over a one (1) inch base of building board or other suitable material. The padding shall be covered with canvas, duck, or similar material tightly stretched and laced securely in place under the apron.

(Rule 0780-5-1-.06, continued)

- (2) The ring platform shall not be more than four (4) feet above the floor of the building, and shall be provided with suitable steps. If the ring platform is not elevated at least three and one-half (3½) feet above the floor of the building, there shall be a clear space of four (4) feet from the ring posts on all sides.
- (3) Ring posts shall be constructed of metal, shall provide sufficient structural support, shall be properly padded, and shall extend from the floor of the building to a height of fifty-eight (58) inches above the ring floor.
- (4) There shall be four (4) ring ropes not less than one (1) inch in diameter. All ropes shall be wrapped securely in soft material, and shall be tightly drawn. The lower rope shall be eighteen (18) inches above the ring floor; the second rope thirty (30) inches; the third rope forty-two (42) inches; and the fourth rope, fifty-four (54) inches above the ring floor.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-115-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed March 19, 1982; effective May 3, 1982. Amendment filed June 11, 1986; effective July 11, 1986. Amendment filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

#### **0780-5-1-.07 BELL.**

A device capable of producing a tone easily audible to the contestants shall be fastened securely at or below the floor level of the ring.

**Authority:** Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981.

#### **0780-5-1-.08 BANDAGES.**

Contestant's hands shall be wrapped with soft gauze bandages not more than three (3) inches in width, held in place by not more than (8) feet of surgeon's tape, one (1) inch in width. The binding of surgeon's tape must not be applied within one-half (½) inch of the knuckles of the contestant's hand.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981.

#### **0780-5-1-.09 GLOVES.**

- (1) In all weight classifications up to and including light-heavyweights, the contestants shall wear gloves weighing not less than eight (8) ounces. In the heavyweight classification, the contestants shall wear gloves weighing not less than (10) ounces.
- (2) Ends of glove laces shall be securely taped.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed March 19, 1982; effective May 3, 1982.

#### **0780-5-1-.10 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.**

- (1) Each boxer shall be equipped with, and use throughout the bout:
  - (a) equipment which will preclude any claim of incapacity due to low blows; and

(Rule 0780-5-1-.10, continued)

- (b) a custom-made, individually fabricated mouth guard; provided, however, that a referee shall not call time for the purpose of replacing any mouthpiece which is knocked out or dropped during a bout.
- (2) Each referee and all seconds (including a manager acting as a second) shall be equipped with surgical gloves which shall be worn throughout the bout.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed August 31, 1990; effective November 28, 1990.

#### **0780-5-1-.11 SHOES.**

Shoes shall be of soft material, and shall not be fitted with spikes, cleats, hard soles, or hard heels.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981.

#### **0780-5-1-.12 WEIGHTS.**

- (1) Bouts may be conducted in the following weight classifications. The allowable weight differential (in pounds) between contestants within major classifications is indicated in parentheses.

	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>DIFFERENTIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>
(a)	Jr. Flyweight.....	(3).....	Not over 108 lbs.
(b)	Flyweight.....	(3).....	Not over 112 lbs.
(c)	Bantamweight.....	(3).....	Not over 118 lbs.
(d)	Jr. Featherweight .....		Not over 122 lbs.
(e)	Featherweight.....	(5).....	Not over 126 lbs.
(f)	Jr. Lightweight.....		Not over 130 lbs.
(g)	Lightweight .....	(7).....	Not over 135 lbs.
(h)	Jr. Welterweight.....		Not over 140 lbs.
(i)	Welterweight.....	(9).....	Not over 147 lbs.
(j)	Jr. Middleweight.....		Not over 154 lbs.
(k)	Middleweight.....	(11).....	Not over 160 lbs.
(l)	Light Heavyweight.....	(12).....	Not over 175 lbs.
(m)	Cruiserweight.....		Not over 195 lbs.
(n)	Heavyweight.....		Any over 195 lbs.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed August 15, 1986; effective November 29, 1986.

#### **0780-5-1-.13 WEIGH-IN.**

- (1) The promoter or sponsor of a bout shall furnish an accurate scale for the weigh-in. Such scale shall be available to the contestants at least eight (8) hours prior to the weigh-in time.
- (2) Upon receipt of a notice pursuant to rule 0780-5-1-.03, the Director shall establish a time and place for the weigh-in. In setting such time and place, the Director shall consider any expressed preference of the promoter; however, the decision of the Director shall be final.
- (3) Unless otherwise authorized by the Director, the contestants shall appear at the time and place designated for the weigh-in. Each contestant shall submit to the Director a sworn statement showing

(Rule 0780-5-1-.13, continued)

the results (including dates, sites, opponents, and any knockouts or technical knockouts) of his last six (6) professional bouts; provided, however, that no bout held more than nine (9) months prior to the date of the weigh-in need be reported. If such statement reflects that a boxer is subject to the prohibitions of rule 0780-5-1-.25, he shall not be permitted to compete in the scheduled bout.

- (4) All weigh-ins shall be under the supervision and control of the Director and/or his or her designee.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-115-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed March 19, 1982; effective May 3, 1982. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

#### **0780-5-1-.14 SECONDS.**

- (1) A contestant in a bout is permitted a maximum of three licensed seconds to assist him between rounds in his corner. A licensed manager may act as a second without possessing a second's license.
- (2) No second shall enter the ring while a round is in progress.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983.

#### **0780-5-1-.15 REFEREE.**

- (1) Each bout shall be officiated by a referee who is licensed in accordance with this chapter. The referee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of such bout. He shall maintain effective supervision and control over the contest while it is in progress. The referee shall effectively communicate all of his decisions and actions concerning bout through clear and appropriate signals and/or notifications.
- (2) Prior to the start of a bout, the referee shall:
- (a) confirm that the contestants and their seconds possess current and valid licenses or temporary permits issued under the authority of this chapter;
  - (b) inspect and initial (to denote his approval of ) the bandages of each contestant;
  - (c) examine the contestants' gloves to insure that they are not in an unsanitary, lumpy, rough, or broken condition;
  - (d) observe the fitting of each contestant's gloves;
  - (e) ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to the gloves, bandages, protective equipment, or body of the contestants, and that their equipment is in order; and
  - (f) ensure that all persons working the ring wear surgical gloves.
- (3) The referee may:
- (a) stop a contest and consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing it to continue; and
  - (b) administer a "standing eight count" to a contestant in order to observe his condition; and

(Rule 0780-5-1-.15, continued)

- (c) warn, penalize or disqualify a contestant for:
  - 1. hitting below the belt;
  - 2. hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down;
  - 3. holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other;
  - 4. holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
  - 5. wrestling or kicking;
  - 6. butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee;
  - 7. hitting with the open glove, or with the butt of the hand, the wrist, or the elbow;
  - 8. purposely going down without being hit;
  - 9. striking deliberately at the part of the body over the kidneys;
  - 10. the use of the pivot blow or the deliberate use of the rabbit punch;
  - 11. jabbing opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove;
  - 12. the use of abusive language in the ring;
  - 13. any unsportsman-like trick or action causing injury to an opponent;
  - 14. hitting on the break;
  - 15. hitting after the bell has sounded ending the round;
  - 16. roughing at the ropes; or
  - 17. pushing an opponent about the ring, or into or through the ropes.
- (4) If a referee has reason to believe that a foul which he did not see may have been committed, he may poll the judges to determine whether such foul was committed, and act in his discretion accordingly.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed June 11, 1986; effective July 11, 1986. Amendment filed August 31, 1990; effective November 28, 1990.

**0780-5-1-.16 TIMEKEEPER.**

- (1) At all bouts there shall be a licensed timekeeper who possesses a whistle and/or some other sound device and an accurate stopwatch. The timekeeper shall be seated outside the ring close to the sound device required by rule 0780-5-1-.07.
- (2) The timekeeper shall indicate the beginning and ending of each round by activating the sound device. Ten seconds before the beginning of each round, the timekeeper shall warn the seconds of the contestants by blowing the whistle.



(Rule 0780-5-1-.16, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-115-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

**0780-5-1.17 SCORING.**

- (1) All bouts will be scored by the “ten-point must” system. In this system the winner of each round receives ten points and the opponent a proportionately less number, but under no circumstances less than seven. When the round is even, each boxer receives ten points.
- (2) A referee may participate in the scoring of a bout without possessing a judge’s license. However, it is recommended that the referee take no part in the scoring of a bout in order to devote maximum attention to the proper performance of his supervisory responsibilities.
- (3) Whenever a referee decides to penalize a contestant because of a foul or other infraction of the rules, he shall notify both corners and the judges of the number of points to be deducted from such contestant at the end of the round in which the infraction occurs. The judges shall adjust their scorecards in accordance with the referee’s instructions.
- (4) The scoring of a bout shall be based on four factors, in the following order:
  - (a) clean hits;
  - (b) effective aggressiveness;
  - (c) defense;
  - (d) ring generalship.
- (5) For scoring purposes, a “standing eight count” shall be deemed equivalent to a knockdown.
- (6) In any bout fought to a decision, the outcome shall be determined by a majority of the scorers.
  - (a) Example: Two judges score a bout a draw; one judge scores the bout in one boxer’s favor. The outcome is a draw.
- (7) In the event that a bout terminates by a knockout or technical knockout which, in the referee’s sole judgement, resulted from head blows, he shall instruct the judges to enter the designation “KOH” or “TKOH” (as appropriate) on their scorecards.
- (8) At the conclusion of a bout, all scorecards shall be signed by the scorer and transmitted to a designated “chief judge”. After reviewing the scorecards for accuracy and correctness, the chief judge shall notify the ring announcer of the official decision. Following the announcement of the decision, the scorecards shall be delivered to the Directors.
- (9) In order to afford an adequate view of the bout as well as sufficient isolation from other spectators, judges may be seated in elevated chairs positioned midway between the ring posts on different sides of the ring.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed June 11, 1986; effective July 11, 1986.

**0780-5-1-18 RING OFFICIALS GENERALLY.**

- (1) No promoter, or official, director or stockholder thereof, shall act as a referee, judge, or timekeeper at any bout conducted by such promoter.
- (2) No person shall act or agree to act as a referee, judge, or timekeeper under any circumstances which might reasonably appear to impair his capacity to exercise independent judgement.
- (3) No referee, judge, or timekeeper shall consume, or be under the influence of, alcoholic beverages or drugs during the course of his official duties.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984.

**0780-5-1-19 KNOCKDOWN AND KNOCKOUT.**

- (1) A contestant shall be deemed “down” when:
  - (a) any part of his body except his feet is on the ring floor;
  - (b) he is rising from a down position; or
  - (c) he is hanging helplessly over the ropes; provided, however, that a boxer hanging over the ropes is not officially “down” until so pronounced by the referee.
- (2) When a contestant is knocked down, the timekeeper shall immediately rise and announce the elapsed seconds; and the referee shall promptly order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner. The referee shall then return to the fallen contestant and audibly announce the count as he motions with his right arm downward indicating the end of each second. Should the opponent fail to remain in the neutral corner farthest for the boxer who is down, the referee shall cease counting until he has returned to it, and then continue the count from the point at which it was interrupted.
- (3) A contestant who is knocked down must take a count of 8 whether or not he has regained his feet before the count has been reached. If when the count of 8 is reached the contestant is on his feet, the referee shall wipe any accumulated resin from his gloves, and may examine him sufficiently to assure himself that the contestant is physically fit and mentally alert enough to continue. If so assured, the referee shall without loss of time order the contestants to resume boxing.
- (4) If the contestant taking the count is still down when the referee calls the count of “TEN”, the referee shall wave both arms, indicating that the contestant has been knocked out. When a round other than a final round shall terminate while the referee is administering the count to a contestant who has been knocked down, the count shall be continued. The timekeeper shall not ring the bell until and unless such contestant rises before the count of 10 and the referee orders him to resume boxing. If the fallen contestant shall fail to rise before the count of 10, he shall be declared the loser by knockout in the round just concluded.
- (5) Should a boxer slip, fall down, or be pushed down, he shall be ordered to his feet immediately. Failure to rise may subject him to disqualification.
- (6) A contestant who has fallen through the ropes and out of the platform ring as a result of a legal blow during the contest may not be helped by anyone, and the referee shall start the count, which in this special case will be twenty (20) seconds. Should the contestant fail to re-enter the ring before the count of twenty (20) seconds, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he has been knocked out and shall raise the hand of the opponent as the winner.

(Rule 0780-5-1-.19, continued)

- (7) If a contestant is knocked down three times in a round, he shall be declared the loser by knockout.
- (8) When a boxer has been knocked out, none of his seconds shall touch him until the attending physician enters the ring and personally attends the fallen boxer, and issues such instructions as he deems appropriate to the boxer's seconds.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984.

#### **0780-5-1-.20 TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT.**

- (1) The referee shall promptly terminate a bout and declare a "technical knockout" if:
  - (a) he is advised to do so by the ringside physician;
  - (b) in his opinion, the bout is too one sided;
  - (c) in his opinion, a contestant is in such condition that continuation of the bout might subject him to serious injury; or
  - (d) a contestant fails to answer the bell for a round.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §53-6857. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983.

#### **0780-5-1-.21 "NO CONTEST"**

- (1) If the stoppage of a bout is attributable to any cause other than legal blows (including injuries resulting therefrom), disqualification, or retirement, such bout:
  - (a) will be ruled a "no contest", if the stoppage occurs before the end of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) round; or
  - (b) will be decided by the totals on the scorecards, if the stoppage occurs after the end of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) round.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §53-6857 and 68-115-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983. Amendment filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

#### **0780-5-1-.22 DRUGS AND STIMULANTS.**

- (1) The administration or use of drugs or stimulants, either before or during a bout, to or by any boxer, is prohibited. Any contestant violating this provision shall be subject to disqualification. For the purpose of verifying compliance with this rule, the Director or his designee may require that one or both contestants in a bout submit to a urinalysis, blood test, or, if recommended by the ringside physician, any other post-fight examination.
- (2) No substance other than plain water or an electrolyte solution approved by the ringside physician shall be administered to a contestant during the course of a bout. The discretionary use of vaseline around the eye is permitted; however, the use of vaseline, grease, or any other substance on the arms, legs, or body of contestant is prohibited.
- (3) The discretionary use of coagulants, such as a solution of adrenalin (1/1000) approved by the ringside physician, is permitted between rounds to stop bleeding of minor cuts and lacerations sustained by a

(Rule 0780-5-1-.22, continued)

contestant. The use of “iron type” coagulants, such as Monsel’s solution, is absolutely prohibited, and shall be cause for immediate disqualification.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed March 19, 1982; effective May 3, 1982. Amendment filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984.

#### **0780-5-1-.23 TREATMENT OR HOSPITALIZATION.**

- (1) In the event of any serious injury, the ringside physician shall immediately render any emergency treatment necessary, recommend further treatment or hospitalization if indicated, and fully report the entire matter to the Director within 24 hours and subsequently thereafter, if necessary. Such physician may also require that the injured boxer and his manager remain in the ring or on the premises after the contest for such period of time as the physician deems advisable.
- (2) In the event that a boxer who has suffered a knockout or any severe injury has on such account been treated by his personal physician or has been hospitalized, he or his manager must promptly submit to the Director a full report from such physician or hospital.

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981.

#### **0780-5-1-.24 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Repeal filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984.

#### **0780-5-1-.25 TIME LIMITATIONS.**

- (1) No bout shall exceed twelve (12) rounds of not more than three (3) minutes each in length. There shall be a rest period of one (1) minute between consecutive rounds.
- (2) The number of days which must elapse before a boxer who has competed anywhere in a bout may participate in another bout shall be as follows:

	Length of Bout (In scheduled rounds)	Required Interval (in days)
(a)	4 or less	2
(b)	5 - 9	5
(c)	10 - 12	7

- (3) A boxer who suffers a knockout (KO), technical knockout (TKO) or retires from a fight for any reason shall not be permitted to engage in any further competitive boxing or sparring for a period of at least thirty (30) days. If a boxer loses two (2) bouts by KO or TKO within a period of three (3) months, he shall not be permitted to engage in any further boxing or sparring for a period of at least six (6) months. This rule includes any KO or TKO suffered in an out of state bout. Both the boxer and the boxer’s manager shall be responsible for assuring compliance with this paragraph.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§68-50-207; 68-115-207 and Section 8, Chapter 727, Public Acts of 1980. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 1, 1980; effective January 15, 1981. Amendment filed March 19, 1982; effective May 3, 1982. Amendment filed August 15, 1986; effective November 29, 1986. Amendment filed June 30, 1999; effective September 13, 1999. Amendments filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

**0780-5-1-.26 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROMOTER.**

- (1) It shall be the responsibility of the promoter of a bout to inform all prospective participants that it will be necessary for them to be duly licensed in accordance with rule 0780-5-1-.04 (1). Prospective boxers should be particularly advised of the conditions for issuance of a temporary permit under rule 0780-5-1-.05.
- (2) No promoter shall knowingly permit any person to act as a boxer, manager, second, referee, judge, or timekeeper in any bout if such person is (or would be) prohibited from acting in such capacity by any provision of this chapter.
- (3) The promoter shall assure that the ringside physician required by T.C.A. §68-50-204 is seated so as to have immediate access to the ring.
- (4) The promoter shall provide surgical gloves to all persons working in the ring. No promoter shall knowingly permit any person to act as a second (including a manager acting as a second) or referee in any bout unless such person is supplied with, and uses, such surgical gloves.
- (5) No person may arrange, promote, organize, or produce a professional boxing match without providing health insurance for each boxer to provide medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the match. The minimum liability coverage shall not be less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§53-6857, 68-50-207, and 68-115-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983. Amendment filed June 11, 1986; effective July 11, 1986. Amendment filed August 31, 1990; effective November 28, 1990. Amendment filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

**0780-5-1-.27 RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES.**

In the event a problem or dispute arises in connection with a bout held or scheduled to be held in this State, the parties shall make every effort to achieve a reasonable settlement consistent with the provisions of this chapter. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, and Director determines that a resolution of the matter is reasonably necessary to protect the welfare of one or both of the boxers, then such matter shall be referred to the Director for his decision.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §53-6857. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 27, 1983; effective June 27, 1983.

**0780-5-1-.28 CONTRACTS.**

- (1) Every contract for the services of a boxer in any bout in this State shall be in writing and:
  - (a) include a term incorporating by reference the statutes and rules governing professional boxing in Tennessee;
  - (b) contain no other terms in conflict with such statutes or rules; and
  - (c) be available for review by the Director at any reasonable time upon request.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207 and 68-115-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984. Amendment filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

**0780-5-1-.29 FINANCIAL INTEREST IN CONTESTANTS.**

No person may promote a bout if he has any direct or indirect financial interest in one or both of the contestants.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-50-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984.

(Rule 0780-5-1-.29, continued)

**0780-5-1-.30 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

At the site of every bout held in this State, there shall be stationed a properly equipped and attended ambulance or rescue squad vehicle. However, the Director may modify or waive this rule if he confirms the availability of immediate and adequate emergency medical services at or near the site of the bout.

*Authority: T.C.A. §68-50-207. Administrative History: Original rule filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984.*

**0780-5-1-.31 FEMALE BOXING.**

- (1) Bouts between contestants of opposite sexes are prohibited.
- (2) Female boxers shall be subject to provisions of this chapter; except, however, that female contestants shall wear:
  - (a) gloves weighing not less than ten (10) ounces; and
  - (b) pelvic area protector and breast protector.
- (3) A pre-fight examination of a female contestant should include abdominal, breast, and pelvic examinations. Any female contestant shall provide the examining physician with the results of a pregnancy test performed on the contestant within the previous fourteen (14) days. If such results are positive, that contestant shall not be permitted to compete.

*Authority: T.C.A. §68-50-207. Administrative History: Original rule filed June 22, 1984; effective July 22, 1984.*

**780-5-1-.32 FOUL RELATED INJURIES.**

- (1) If a boxer is injured by a foul (for which the referee does not disqualify his opponent), both boxers may be seated in their corners for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes. During such period:
  - (a) The boxers shall be neither attended nor talked to by their seconds; and
  - (b) The ringside physician shall examine the fouled boxer and, in his discretion, the other boxer.
- (2) Should the fouled boxer be unable to continue after the rest period, the bout shall be scored in accordance with rule 0780-5-1-.21.

*Authority: T.C.A. §68-50-207 and 68-115-207. Administrative History: Original rule filed June 11, 1986; effective July 11, 1986. Amendment filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.*

**0780-5-1-.33 BOXER IDENTIFICATION CARD.**

- (1) In addition to any other requirements contained in this chapter:
  - (a) Each professional boxer residing in this state shall register with the Director and obtain a boxer identification card.
  - (b) Each professional boxer shall renew his or her identification card once every two (2) years.
  - (c) The fee for a new identification card or renewal of an existing identification card shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

(Rule 0780-5-1-.33, continued)

- (d) Each professional boxer shall present his or her identification card to the appropriate regulatory authority not later than the time for the weigh-in for each professional boxing match they enter.
- (2) A professional boxer who is a resident of a foreign country or a state (as defined by the "Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996", Public Law 104-272) in which professional boxing is not regulated may register and obtain a boxer identification card in this state as provided in paragraph one (1) of this rule.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-115-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 19, 1997; effective March 4, 1998.

#### **0780-5-1-.34 FEDERAL STANDARDS.**

- (1) Each individual or entity licensed or required to be licensed under this chapter shall comply with the "Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996" (Public Law 104-272), any amendments made thereto, and any federal regulations promulgated thereunder.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §68-115-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 19, 1997; effective March 4, 1998.

#### **0780-5-1-.35 CIVIL PENALTIES.**

- (1) The Director may, in a lawful proceeding with respect to any person licensed or required to be licensed, in addition to or in lieu of any other lawful disciplinary action, assess a civil penalty for a violation of a statute, rule or order, enforceable by the Director, in accordance with the following schedule:

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
T.C.A. §68-115-207(c)(1)	\$0 - 1000
(2)	\$0 - 1000
(3)	\$0 - 1000
(4)	\$0 - 1000
(5)	\$0 - 1000
Violation of any lawful order issued by the Director	\$0 - 1000

- (2) Each day of continued violation shall constitute a separate violation.
- (3) In assessing civil penalties, the following factors may be considered:
  - (a) Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violator;
  - (b) The circumstances leading to the violation;
  - (c) The severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public;
  - (d) The economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of non-compliance; and
  - (e) The interest of the public.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§56-1-308 and 68-115-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule December 19, 1997; effective March 4, 1998.